



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 August 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports the emergency sirens that are designed to alert nearby residents of an emergency at the Indian Point nuclear power plants were out of service for more than six hours Wednesday morning, August 2, because of a computer malfunction. (See item [3](#))
- Reuters reports a new study shows that skin testing with killed vaccinia virus, which is related to smallpox, is a simple and reliable way of predicting residual immunity to smallpox. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 02, Bloomberg* — **Crude oil rises for a third day as storm nears the Gulf.** Crude oil rose for a third day on concern that a tropical storm may threaten U.S. oil fields and after Iran vowed to continue developing nuclear capabilities. Tropical Storm Chris strengthened as it moved toward Puerto Rico and may become the year's first Atlantic hurricane late Wednesday, August 2, or early Thursday, August 3, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. "With the prices we're looking at it's almost as if a hurricane is already there...If there's any change in the direction of the storm you'll see oil and natural-gas sell off pretty quickly," said Michael Rose, director of the trading desk at Angus Jackson Inc. Concern that Chris could disrupt Gulf of

Mexico oil production is boosting prices that are already high because of concern that Iran could cut output if the country is punished for its nuclear program. Oil is also propped up by gains in U.S. natural gas prices, which climbed as much as 92.6 cents to \$8.50 per million British thermal units in New York as a heat wave along the U.S. East Coast drove up demand for air conditioning. Gas is also pushed up by Tropical Storm Chris due to possible supply disruptions.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/markets/energy.html>

2. *August 02, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE to invest \$250 million in new bioenergy centers.** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman announced Wednesday, August 2, that DOE will spend \$250 million to establish and operate two new Bioenergy Research Centers to accelerate basic research on the development of cellulosic ethanol and other biofuels. The Secretary made the announcement during a visit to Channahon, IL. Four billion gallons of ethanol were produced this year, mainly from corn. EPA requires that by 2012, at least 7.5 billion gallons per year of renewable fuel be blended into the nation's fuel supply. To meet these goals, future biofuels production will require the use of more diverse feedstocks including cellulosic material such as agricultural residues, grasses, and other inedible plants. Universities, national laboratories, nonprofit organizations and private firms are eligible to compete for an award to establish and operate a center. Awards will be announced next summer. The centers are expected to begin work in 2008 and will be fully operational by 2009.

Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/3872.htm>

3. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Indian Point sirens disabled for six hours.** The emergency sirens that are designed to alert nearby residents of an emergency at the Indian Point nuclear power plants were out of service for more than six hours Wednesday morning, August 2, because of a computer malfunction. The sirens, which have a history of operating problems and will be replaced by next year, were out from 12:06 a.m. to 6:35 a.m., EDT, said Jim Steets, spokesperson for Indian Point owner Entergy Nuclear Northeast. He said the malfunction was unrelated to heat and power problems currently plaguing the area. He said a computer program that continuously monitors the sirens malfunctioned. Had an emergency during the outage, a backup plan involving trucks with loudspeakers would have been implemented.

Source: http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_214104503.html

4. *August 01, Platts* — **Three companies form partnership to build nuclear plants in U.S.** Constellation Energy, Areva, and BWX Technologies have formed a partnership to re-establish the manufacturing of commercial nuclear reactor components in the U.S. The work will include the fabrication of steam generators, which have not been built in the U.S. for more than a decade, at BWXT facilities. Areva will be responsible for the nuclear engineering and licensing. UniStar wants to license, build, and operate a standardized fleet of advanced reactors known as Evolutionary Power Reactors, based on a French design, in the U.S. The agreement comes as several utilities consider adding power reactors to their generating fleets, and others are looking to replace reactor components.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7628411.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

5. *August 01, NBC 5 (IL)* — **Transformer explodes at Zion Nuclear.** A small explosion at a shuttered Zion Nuclear Plant north of Chicago, IL, put neighbors on alert Tuesday evening,

August 1. Exelon Nuclear, the owner of the plant, said a transformer handling incoming power appeared to have blown out. The Zion plant no longer generates electricity, but it takes in power for some continuing operations, including management of thousands of pounds of spent fuel.

Source: <http://www.nbc5.com/news/9611515/detail.html>

6. *August 01, Desert Dispatch (CA)* — **Sheriff's Deputies interrupt power plant burglary.** San Bernardino, CA, Sheriff's Department deputies arrested a paroled man Sunday, July 30, after interrupting his attempts to rob a power plant in the 37000 block of Santa Fe Road in Daggett. Darren Ray Caudel, 35, was arrested for commercial burglary. Deputy Danny Ritchea of the Barstow Sheriff's Station arrived at the Reliant Energy Coolwater Power Plant and found that Caudel was still inside the building with stolen property moved outside the business' fence. According to the sheriff's logs, around 3:50 a.m., PDT, Ritchea saw a truck parked on the north side of the plant. Nearby a large hole had been cut in the fence surrounding the plant. Items from inside the building were sitting outside the fence.

Source: <http://www.desertdispatch.com/2006/115444210218554.html>

7. *July 31, Financial Times* — **Venezuela will not cut off oil to U.S.** Venezuela said on Monday, July 31, that it had no intention of unilaterally cutting off oil supplies to the U.S. Threats of a cut-off and the issue of how reliable the government of President Hugo Chávez is as an oil supplier to the U.S. have become the central, theme of the soured relationship between Washington and Caracas. Regular threats by Mr Chávez to “cut off” oil to the U.S. led Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, last month to urge the Bush administration to develop contingency plans for such a potential eventuality. A recent study undertaken by the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimated that a severance of oil supplies from Venezuela would lead to an \$11 per barrel increase in the price of oil. Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter, ships 1.5 million barrels per day of oil to the U.S., accounting for about 11 percent of US energy imports. Analysts said that because the U.S. market accounted for about two-thirds of Venezuela's oil exports, there appeared to be no economic logic to support the idea that the Chávez government would cease shipments.

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/1a1954d6-20bd-11db-8b3e-0000779e2340.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

8. *August 02, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-1032T: Chemical Regulation: Actions Are Needed to Improve the Effectiveness of EPA's Chemical Review Program (Testimony).** Chemicals play an important role in everyday life, but some may be harmful to human health and the environment. Chemicals are used to produce items widely used throughout society, such as cleansers and plastics as well as industrial solvents. However, some chemicals, such as lead and mercury, are highly toxic at certain doses and need to be regulated because of health and safety concerns. In 1976, the Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to authorize the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to control chemicals that pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. This testimony is based on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) June 2005 report, Chemical Regulation: Options Exist to Improve EPA's Ability to Assess Health Risks and Manage Its

Chemical Review Program (GAO–05–458). GAO’s report describes EPA’s efforts to (1) assess chemicals used in commerce, (2) control the use of chemicals not yet in commerce, and (3) publicly disclose information provided by chemical companies under TSCA. GAO recommended that the Congress consider providing EPA additional authorities under TSCA to improve EPA’s ability to assess chemical risks, and that the EPA Administrator take several actions to improve EPA’s management of its chemical review program.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061032thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1032T>

9. *August 02, Associated Press* — **Evacuations prompted by fire at magnesium foundry.** A fire Tuesday night, August 1, at the National Magnesium and Aluminum Foundry in Fort Wayne, IN, could take another day or two to go out. Since magnesium is highly flammable and reacts violently with water, the fire will have to burn itself out. People were evacuated from nearby buildings, but most businesses were already closed for the evening.

Source: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=5228460&nav=9Tai>

10. *August 02, FOX 41 (KY)* — **Chemical spill in Kentucky keeps residents indoors.** Late Monday night, July 31, 500 gallons of hydrochloric acid spilled at Carbide Industries in Rubbertown, an industrial complex in West Louisville, KY. Nearby residents were told to stay in their homes until crews contained the spill.

Source: <http://www.fox41.com/article/view/6997/?tf=wdrbarticleview.t.pl>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

11. *August 02, CNET* — **A password for credit cards.** As banks face an end-of-year deadline to strengthen online authentication, a technology that will incorporate a one-time-password with a display, battery, and password-generating chip in a card, such as a credit card, has been developed. Just like tokens, the card, called a DisplayCard, generates passwords that can be used to validate online logins or transactions, for example when banking online. The cards offer an extra level of security, in addition to the traditional login name and password.

Source: http://news.com.com/A+password+for+your+credit+cards/2100-1029_3-6101121.html?tag=cd.top

12. *August 01, Military.com* — **E-mail scam targets Veterans.** A fraudulent e-mail is being circulated in which the sender is "spoofing" a firstgov e-mail address, using the subject "Money Access Service at fraud@firsgov.com". These e-mails did not come from FirstGov.gov. FirstGov.gov is investigating.

Source: <http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,108099,00.html>

Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *August 02, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-06-976T: Border Security:

Continued Weaknesses in Screening Entrants into the United States (Testimony). Agents successfully entered the United States using fictitious driver's licenses and other bogus documentation through nine land ports of entry on the northern and southern borders. CBP officers never questioned the authenticity of the counterfeit documents presented at any of the nine crossings. On three occasions — in California, Texas, and Arizona — agents crossed the border on foot. At two of these locations — Texas and Arizona — CBP allowed the agents entry into the United States without asking for or inspecting any identification documents. The results of this current work indicate that (1) CBP officers at the nine land border crossings tested did not detect the counterfeit identification we used and (2) people who enter the United States via land crossings are not always asked to present identification. Furthermore, periodic tests since 2002 clearly show that CBP officers are unable to effectively identify counterfeit driver's licenses, birth certificates, and other documents. This vulnerability potentially allows terrorists or others involved in criminal activity to pass freely into the United States from Canada or Mexico with little or no chance of being detected.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-976T>

14. *August 02, Reuters* — Mergers seen taking off in U.S. airline industry. After billions of dollars of cost cutting, a merger and two major carriers operating under bankruptcy protection, the industry looks ripe for more consolidation, analysts said. Mergers, which would give airlines more control over capacity — and thus the power to raise fares — have long been seen as a critical next step for the industry. Analysts say a new round is on the horizon. "It is a very, very strong likelihood that as we get into the early parts of 2007 ... things we have been talking about will start to come to fruition," airline consultant Dan Akins said. Akins said that when bankrupt Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines get closer to their Chapter 11 exits — and details of their reorganization plans emerge — potential merger partners and investors will take a long look at those carriers' fleets, labor contracts, and debt. Akins predicted Northwest and Delta might be in a position to emerge from bankruptcy in early 2007. Bankruptcy protection from creditors allows carriers to streamline operations by shedding aircraft leases and rewriting labor contracts. Airlines with court protection can more easily slim down into attractive merger partners, said Helene Becker, an analyst with The Benchmark Co.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-08-02-airline-mergers_x.htm

15. *August 01, Department of Homeland Security* — Fact sheet: Combating fraudulent documents. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been working closely with the Department of State to implement the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. This initiative will require travelers to present secure identity documentation when entering the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers undergo security training to determine what genuine documents look like and how documents can be altered. CBP also trains officers to watch for imposters — people who use genuine documents but are not the legitimate bearer of those documents. CBP Officers working primary inspection are taught to recognize possible fraudulent documents and to refer those questionable documents to secondary for further

review and consultation. DHS is also harnessing 21st century technology and biometric information to increase the likelihood of apprehending criminal or terrorist elements attempting to enter the U.S. US-VISIT has processed more than 61 million people applying for admission at U.S. ports of entry. Nearly 1,200 criminals and immigration violators have been intercepted upon entry into the United States based on the biometric alone. US VISIT owes a great deal of its success to the power of biometrics. Biometrics identify the traveler, protect privacy, and make it virtually impossible to cross borders using fraudulent documents or to assume another's identity

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5773>

16. *July 31, Times Dispatch (VA)* — **Problems on airport loading ramps.** Aviation-safety consultant Bob Vandel, executive vice president of the Flight Safety Foundation in Alexandria, VA, estimates that ground-based accidents cost airlines around the world at least \$4 billion a year, with an additional \$1 billion in costs for the corporate and general aviation sector. That does not include \$5.8 billion a year in personal-injury costs, Vandel said. Accidents on the loading ramps of airports run the gamut from baggage loaders hitting jets to fuel trucks clipping aircraft wings. Because they happen during preflight preparations, such mishaps are not always reported to the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board. Virginia's Richmond International Airport suffered mishaps in February and March that sparked an internal investigation by the airport's administration. In February, a fuel truck carrying 4,000 gallons of jet fuel struck a United Airlines regional jet, causing minor injuries, missed flights, and property damage. In Richmond, US Airways, Delta, JetBlue, and Northwest use outside contractors on the ramp. "We're going to see a greater emphasis on safety-management systems at airports overall," said Tom Zoller, vice president of regulatory affairs for the American Association of Airport Executives in Alexandria. "The challenge at airports like Richmond is that there are so many players on the ramp."

Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/RTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149189679303&path=!business!metrobiz&s=1045855934857

17. *July 27, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration* — **PHMSA issues safety order to Tennessee Gas Pipeline following incident in Kentucky.** The letter from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), part of the Department of Transportation, is addressed to Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Brentwood, TN, and says in part, "This Corrective Action Order is being issued, under authority of 49 U.S.C. 5 601 12, to require Tennessee Gas Pipeline (Respondent), an affiliate of El Paso Corporation (El Paso), to take the necessary corrective action to protect the public and environment from potential hazards associated with its 24-inch natural gas transmission pipeline that extends from Carnpbellsville, KY, to Clay City, KY (hereinafter referred to as Line 100-1). On July 22,2006, a failure occurred on Respondent's 24-inch Line 100-1 pipeline approximately six miles southeast of Clay City, resulting in the release and ignition of natural gas. The cause of the failure is unknown. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5 60 1 17, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety, Southern Region and the Kentucky Public Service Commission initiated an investigation of this failure."

PHMSA Order: <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/TennGas.pdf>

Source: <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>

Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *August 02, Atlanta Journal–Constitution* — **UPS stores open in China.** The shipping giant said the two UPS Express retail locations are in Shanghai, one of China's fastest-growing business centers. The stores are the latest in a series of steps by UPS to establish a presence in China. In 2005 the company took direct control of its operations in China, and it has also expanded air operations in the country. UPS said it employs 4,000 people in China. UPS said that its previous moves were aimed mostly at generating business in China's flourishing manufacturing industry. The UPS Express stores, it said, are aimed at the financial and services industries.

Source: http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/stories/0802biz_ups.html

19. *August 02, New York Times* — **Postal Service finds business in the Internet sales.** The Internet is injecting new life — and a sorely needed source of revenue — into the U.S. Postal Service. And it is happening with packages — millions of them shipped every day, in a journey that starts with a few mouse clicks and ends a day or two or five later at a customer's door. In 2005, revenue from first-class mail like cards and letters, which still made up more than half the Postal Service's total sales of \$66.6 billion, dropped nearly one percent — from 2004. But revenue from packages helped make up for much of that drop, rising 2.8 percent, to \$8.6 billion, last year, as the Postal Service handled nearly three billion packages. It is impossible to say how many of these were online orders, but Postal Service officials give e-commerce a lot of credit. "Six years ago, people were pointing at the Internet as the doom and gloom of the Postal Service, and in essence what we've found is the Internet has ended up being the channel that drives business for us," said James Cochrane, manager of package services at the Postal Service.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/02/business/02postal.html?ex=1154664000&en=1a4eea1f658caf08&ei=5087%0A>

Agriculture Sector

20. *August 02, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Mississippi reports first soybean rust in kudzu, soybeans.** Soybean rust has been found for the first time this year in Mississippi, in soybeans and on kudzu in Jefferson County on the Louisiana border. This becomes the 28th U.S. county positive for rust in 2006 and expands the affected states to six: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=899>

21. *August 01, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Regulations for fruit movement from Florida established.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its requirements for the movement of fresh fruit from Florida to prevent the spread of citrus canker. The interim rule becomes effective upon publication. USDA's decision to regulate fruit movement from the state of Florida

provides a mechanism for healthy Florida citrus fruit to be sold to non–citrus–producing states (45 states total). This scientifically sound option provides the greatest level of certainty to safeguard other citrus–producing states from the introduction of citrus canker, while preserving Florida’s fresh fruit citrus trade. If citrus canker were to be detected in another citrus–producing state, this interim rule provides the framework to establish an appropriate regulatory response based on the nature of the outbreak. In addition, the interim rule allows for fresh fruit that would not otherwise be eligible for interstate movement to be delivered to a port for immediate export if the shipment meets the entry conditions of the importing country.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/08/flfruitmove.shtml>

- 22. *August 01, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — Oral rabies vaccine distributed across Appalachian states.** Wildlife Services, a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will distribute oral rabies vaccine baits beginning on, or about August 8, to prevent the spread of raccoon rabies in portions of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Baits containing oral rabies vaccine will be distributed over rural areas using low–flying twin–engine aircraft and hand baiting will occur in populated regions using ground–based vehicles. The projected two–week program will target raccoons and result in the distribution of approximately 4.3 million baits covering roughly 20,535 total square miles across five states.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/08/orv_appalachian.shtml

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

- 23. *July 31, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — Salad recalled.** Classic Salads of Salinas, CA, is voluntarily recalling 4lb., 2lb. and 10 oz. Baby Spinach and 4lb., 3lb., 1.5lb., Spring Mix, because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections, endocarditis and arthritis. Baby Spinach/Spring Mix was distributed nationwide, as well as Canada and Japan, to foodservice, institutions and distributors. No illnesses have been reported to date. The recall was the result of a routine sampling program conducted by the company which revealed that the finished product processed July 24th, 2006 contained the bacteria.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/classicsalad07_06.html

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

- 24. *August 02, Washington Post* — Chinese impose rules for water use.** For centuries, the Chinese have struggled through flood and drought to tame the Yellow River. Now the government is tightening controls over the river. Authorities said a new law, which went into effect Tuesday, August 1, will allow for better management of resources and reduce the number

of regional fights over water from the Yellow River. It will give the Water Resources Ministry the power to set plans for water usage for 11 provinces or municipalities along the 3,395-mile river, and it will impose sanctions or fines on officials who do not comply with regulations or who take more water than is allowed. The new law also differs from previous water conservation rules in that it includes emergency measures in case of severe drought or major water pollution events. The move to tighten control over the river is a reflection of China's tremendous economic growth and industrial development, which have fueled the demand for natural resources. More than 400 of China's 600 cities suffer water shortages. The problem is especially acute in 108 cities, many of them along the Yellow River. The river supplies water to 140 million people, or 12 percent of China's population, and irrigates about 15 percent of the country's farmland.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/01/AR2006080101366.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

25. *August 02, Voice of America* — Bird-flu outbreak suspected in Northern Sumatra.

Indonesian health officials say seven people from a village in northern Sumatra are being treated for what doctors suspect may be bird flu. The villagers come from the same district where bird flu killed seven members of an extended family in May. Officials say the suspected new cases include two young siblings and a neighbor's baby. Local authorities are carrying out tests on the seven villagers to determine whether they have the H5N1 strain of the virus.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2006-08-02-voa14.cfm>

26. *August 01, Reuters* — Skin test predicts remaining immunity to smallpox. Skin testing with killed vaccinia virus, which is related to smallpox, is a simple and reliable way of predicting residual immunity to smallpox, a study shows. The current findings suggest that skin testing with inactivated vaccinia virus is useful in assessing this response. Myoung-don Oh, from the Seoul National University Hospital in South Korea, and colleagues administered the skin test to 83 subjects, 63 of whom had a history of smallpox vaccination. Two days later, all of the subjects underwent smallpox vaccination. The appearance of skin lesions after vaccination was used to determine immunity status. Thirty subjects showed a lack of residual immunity, 34 displayed residual immunity, and 19 had indeterminant results and were excluded from further analysis. All told, the skin test had an 85 percent sensitivity and a 97 percent specificity in predicting residual immunity to smallpox.

Abstract: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/JID/journal/issues/v194n3/36204/brief/36204.abstract.html>

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-08-01T184623Z_01_COL167098_RTRUKOC_0_US-IMMUNITY-SMALLPOX.xml&archived=False

27. *July 21, Science and Development Network* — Tiny protein change stops Ebola virus infecting cells. Scientists have discovered clues about how the Ebola virus invades human cells, causing the severe fever and internal bleeding that kills 50–90 percent of infected people. They say the finding could help researchers develop a vaccine or drug against the virus and its

close relative, Marburg virus. The researchers identified two amino acids that the Zaire strain of the Ebola virus needs to enter cells. When the researchers altered the virus's genetic material, so that different amino acids were produced, laboratory tests showed the virus was no longer able to infect human and monkey cells. Altering either of the two amino acids, which form part of a protein on the surface of the virus, had the same effect.

Source: <http://www.scidev.net/gateways/index.cfm?fuseaction=readitem&rgwid=4&item=News&itemid=2998&language=1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

28. *August 02, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Illinois Severe Storms: As of Tuesday, August 1, there are state Declarations of Emergency in effect in Madison, St. Clair, Clinton, Jefferson and Washington Counties as a result of severe storms and resulting power outages occurring over the course of July 19–21.

Tropical Storm Chris # 1 (Spot Report): As of Tuesday, August 1, at 5:00 p.m. EDT, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency is monitoring the weather situation; they have activated all zones making sure all local resources are available.

Eastern Pacific: At 12:00 a.m. EDT Wednesday, August 2, Tropical Storm Fabio was located near 14.6 north 127.6 west moving towards the west at 14 mph. Fabio has sustained winds near 51 mph. A modest weakening is indicated for the near-term. At 12:00 a.m. EDT August 2, Tropical Storm Gilma with wind speeds near 40 mph was located near 14.6 north 105.7 west, about 400 miles west-southwest of Acapulco, Mexico, moving toward the west at 6 mph.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat080206.shtm>

29. *August 01, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Ohio.** The head of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Wednesday, August 2, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of Ohio. The assistance will supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, straight line winds, and flooding beginning on July 27, and continuing.

For further detail: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=6685>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=28458>

30. *August 01, Chief Engineer (IL)* — **Federal review questions Illinois' plan for emergencies.**

Less than half of Illinois' plans for handling a catastrophe got a passing grade from federal analysts, contradicting the state's own, far more positive assessment. The federal Department of Homeland Security found that only 40 percent of Illinois' plans can be considered "sufficient."

The review concluded 44 percent were “partially sufficient” and 16 percent were “not sufficient.” Chicago scored even worse. Only 20 percent of its plans were rated sufficient. Illinois received its worst marks in the evacuation category. Federal officials also found weaknesses in the state’s warning system, communications and medical care.

Source: http://www.chiefengineer.org/content/content_display.cfm/seq_number_content/2596.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

31. *August 02, CNET News* — **Apple fixes 26 Mac OS flaws.** Apple Computer issued on Tuesday, August 1, updates for its Mac OS X operating system to fix 26 security flaws, some serious. Several of the vulnerabilities affect the way in which Mac OS X handles images and the file sharing capabilities of the software, according to an Apple security advisory. Other flaws were found and fixed within components such as fetchmail, file compression features, and DHCP networking functionality, Apple said.
Apple Security Update: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=304063>
Source: http://news.com.com/Apple+fixes+26+Mac+OS+flaws/2100-1002_3-6101192.html?tag=nefd.top
32. *August 01, Tech Web* — **Mozilla readies Firefox re-release to fix new bug.** Mozilla Corp. will update Firefox for the second time in seven days because last week's v. 1.5.0.5 introduced a bug to the browser that stopped the Windows Media Player plug-in from working on some sites, the company said Monday, July 31. To fix the new flaw, Mozilla will unveil Firefox 1.5.0.6 Tuesday night "if everything goes smoothly," read minutes from the weekly status meeting held Monday afternoon.
Mozilla Weekly Status Meeting notes: <http://wiki.mozilla.org/WeeklyUpdates/2006-07-31>
Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/security/191601013>
33. *July 31, New Orleans City Business* — **Wireless firms spend \$2.5B to fill communications void following Katrina.** After Katrina spawned a virtual black hole of communications, wireless and landline phone service providers beefed up New Orleans-area networks by spending more than \$2.5 billion to improve services. Sprint Nextel is relocating its fiber ring between Mobile, AL, and Hammond farther inland away from flood-prone areas along the Gulf Coast. Cingular Wireless invested \$1.8 billion to raise its towers to 15 feet in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes and add 800 cell sites to transmit signals. Verizon Wireless plans to send a fleet of 53-foot tractor-trailers to house and feed more than 30 technicians who will work to restore services at ground zero. Following Katrina, BellSouth raised low-lying distribution facilities and replaced copper wires with sturdier fiber optics. And in the event of a hurricane, Cox Communications spent more than \$500 million to ensure it won't piecemeal landline phones and Internet service back online one by one.
Source: http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/viewStory.cfm?recID=16_301

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has received information that a website on the Internet is hosting malicious software that has been or is currently being used to compromise systems.

IP: 211.34.248.244

Activity:

This activity is similar to what was reported on July 6th concerning the “beststartmotor” domain. The original email stated: “In April 2006, users reported having their web browsers redirected from other websites to the domain beststartmotor.com using an HTML command called an iframe. Once redirected, the victim's web browsers usually download malware onto the victim's computer.” Currently, another website may have a similar iframe link to IP 211.34.248.244. Once a web browser on a victim system follows this link, the victim computer may download malware which can compromise that computer.

Recommendation:

US-CERT suggests that each agency evaluate the potential risk and take protective measures in a manner that is consistent with the agency's policies and procedures. Please refrain from investigating / visiting the IP address as this may result in accidental infection of your computer. Please be advised that the IP address listed above may also host additional domains and websites. However, this information is being shared to allow the GFIRST community to understand the potential risk associated with those domains.

US-CERT requests that all agencies examine firewall, web proxy and other network perimeter device logs for suspicious traffic to and from the above IP. Should you encounter such activity, please notify US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or via phone at 888-282-0870.

Active Exploitation of a Vulnerability in Microsoft PowerPoint

US-CERT is aware of active exploitation of a new vulnerability in Microsoft PowerPoint. Successful exploitation could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running PowerPoint.

For more information please review the following vulnerability note:

VU#936945: Microsoft PowerPoint contains an unspecified remote code execution vulnerability. <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/936945>

US-CERT strongly encourages users not to open unfamiliar or unexpected email attachments, even if sent by a known and trusted source. Users may wish to read

Cyber Security Tip ST04–010 for more information on working with email attachments. <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04–010.html>

US–CERT will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

PHISHING SCAMS

US–CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US–CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US–CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non–federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 41170 (---), 25 (smtp), 4672 (eMule), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 54856 (---), 24232 (---), 80 (www), 113 (auth) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:

<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non–commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.